

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 19, 2001. Claims 1-6 and 11-18 remain pending in this application, with Claims 1-6, 11, 13, and 18 having been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 7-10 and 19-24 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 18 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 2 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 7 has been canceled, thus rendering its rejection moot. Applicant has carefully reviewed and amended Claim 2, as deemed necessary, with special attention to the points raised in section 3 of the Office Action. Applicant submits that Claim 2 is now sufficiently definite, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,517,557 (Tanaka) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,361,296 (Reyes et al.). Claims 11-13, 17-20, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,274,467 (Takehiro et al.). Claims 14-16 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view of Takehiro et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,450,483 (Williams). Cancellation of Claims 7-10 and 19-24 renders their rejections moot. Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 6, 11, and 18, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct

from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a communication apparatus adapted to execute a plurality of kinds of facsimile protocols. The apparatus includes a detector circuit, a memory, and a control circuit. The detector circuit detects ID information for identifying a communication apparatus at a calling station before a start of communication with the communication apparatus at the calling station. The memory stores a facsimile protocol in association with the ID information of the communication apparatus at the calling station. According to whether or not a facsimile protocol corresponding to the ID information detected by the detector circuit is stored in the memory, the control circuit starts a facsimile protocol stored in the memory corresponding to the ID information detected by the detector circuit, or starts a facsimile protocol to determine a facsimile protocol to be used.

One important feature of Claim 1 is that the communication apparatus determines a facsimile protocol using a calling station's ID information detected before the start of communication with the calling station. By virtue of this feature, the communication apparatus is able to quickly establish communication with the calling station.

Tanaka, as understood by Applicant, relates to a facsimile apparatus with an automatic telephone answering function. Apparently, Tanaka teaches that a communication (by facsimile or telephone) with a partner station is registered in association with ID information of the partner station. If detected ID information is stored in a memory, a communication (by facsimile or telephone) registered in association with the detected ID information is conducted. If not, an answering message (OGM) is sent after connection with a telephone.

Reyes et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a modem with a ring detector for detecting distinctive ring signals corresponding to multiple directory numbers. Apparently, Reyes et al. teaches that data communication, facsimile communication, or voice communication is selectively conducted according to a type of ring of a distinctive ring signal service. The distinctive ring signal service rings a called station using a ring signal having a pattern corresponding to a telephone number of the called station selected by a calling station.

Applicant submits that a combination of Tanaka and Reyes et al., assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest a communication apparatus adapted to execute a plurality of kinds of facsimile protocols. Further, such combination would fail to teach or suggest a communication apparatus that includes "a detector circuit adapted to detect ID information for identifying a communication apparatus at a calling station before a start of communication with the communication apparatus at the calling station," and "a control circuit adapted to start a facsimile protocol stored in said memory corresponding to the ID information detected by said detector circuit, or to start a facsimile protocol to determine a facsimile protocol to be used, according to whether or not a facsimile protocol corresponding to the ID information detected by said detector circuit is stored in said memory," as recited in Claim 1.

As discussed above, Tanaka is understood to merely disclose that speech communication or facsimile communication is conducted according to the detected ID information. Therefore, unlike Claim 1, Tanaka's facsimile apparatus does not "execute a plurality of kinds of facsimile protocols," nor does it start a facsimile protocol corresponding to

detected ID information. Applicant submits that Reyes et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies of Tanaka. As discussed above, Reyes et al. teaches that a distinctive ring signal service rings a called station using a ring signal having a pattern corresponding to a telephone number of the called station selected by a calling station. Therefore, the service cannot notify the called station of ID information of the calling station. That is, Reyes et al. is silent regarding the use of information from the calling station.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claim 6 is a method claim corresponding to Claim 1, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 11 is directed to a communication apparatus adapted to execute a plurality of types of communication protocols for image communication. The apparatus includes a receiver circuit and a control circuit. The receiver circuit receives ID information for identifying a communication apparatus at a calling station before a start of communication of a protocol signal relating to image communication. According to whether or not the ID information is received by the receiver circuit, the control circuit conducts communication based on an image communication protocol corresponding to the ID information received by the receiver circuit, or conducts communication to determine an image communication protocol to be used.

Takehiro et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a facsimile apparatus in which, after a start of facsimile communication, a telephone numbers (ID information) of a

partner station is notified by a facsimile protocol. That is, after the facsimile protocol is determined, the telephone number is received by means of the facsimile protocol.

Applicant submits that a combination of Tanaka and Takehiro et al., assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest a communication apparatus that includes "a receiver circuit adapted to receive ID information for identifying a communication apparatus at a calling station before a start of communication of a protocol signal relating to image communication," as recited in Claim 11. That is, neither Takehiro et al. nor Tanaka discloses or suggests detecting ID information of a calling station before a start of communication with the calling station.

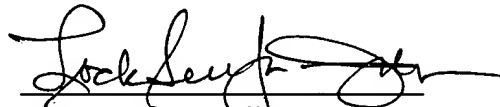
Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 11 is patentable over the cited art, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claim 18 is a method claim corresponding to Claim 11, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 11.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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NY_MAIN 243293 v 1



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Nine Times Amended) A communication apparatus adapted to execute a plurality of kinds of facsimile protocols, said apparatus comprising:

a detector circuit adapted to detect ID information for identifying a communication apparatus at a calling station before a start of communication with the communication apparatus at the calling station;

a memory adapted to store [information of a communication system of the communication apparatus at the calling station] a facsimile protocol in association with the ID information of the communication apparatus at the calling station; and

a control circuit adapted to [conduct communication based on a facsimile protocol corresponding to the information] start a facsimile protocol stored in said memory corresponding to the ID information detected by said detector circuit, or to [conduct communication] start a facsimile protocol to determine a facsimile protocol to be used, according to whether or not a facsimile protocol corresponding to the ID information detected by said detector circuit is stored in said memory[, when communication is to be conducted in response to a calling signal].

2. (Four Times Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a registration circuit adapted to register the ID information of the communication apparatus at the calling station and the [information of the communication system] facsimile

protocol in said memory in accordance with the [communication] executed facsimile protocol.

3. (Four Times Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the ID information for identifying the communication apparatus at the calling station is telephone number information, and said registration circuit stores the [information of the communication system] facsimile protocol in said memory, when calling is selected for the telephone number information, such that the [information of the communication system of the communication apparatus] facsimile protocol at the calling station is stored in said memory in association with the telephone number information sent between call signals.

4. (Thrice Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the [communication system] facsimile protocol changes with a type of modem used by said communication apparatus.

5. (Twice Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the [communication system] facsimile protocol includes a [communication system] facsimile protocol using V.21 and V.29 standards and a [communication system] facsimile protocol using V.8 and V.34 standards.

6. (Eight Times Amended) A communication method adapted to execute a plurality of kinds of facsimile protocols, said method comprising:

a detection step of detecting ID information for identifying a communication apparatus at a calling station before a start of communication with the apparatus at the calling station;

a memory step of storing in a memory [information of a communication system of the communication apparatus] a facsimile protocol at the calling station in association with the ID information of the communication apparatus at the calling station; and

a control step of [conducting communication based on] starting a facsimile protocol, stored in the memory, corresponding to the ID information [stored in the memory, or conducting communication] detected in said detection step or of starting a facsimile protocol to determine a facsimile protocol to be used, according to whether or not a facsimile protocol corresponding to the ID information detected in said detection step is stored in the memory[, when communication is to be conducted in response to a calling signal].

Claims 7-10 have been canceled.

11. (Five Time Amended) A communication apparatus adapted to execute a plurality of types of communication protocols for image communication, said apparatus comprising:

a receiver circuit adapted to receive ID information for identifying a communication apparatus at a calling station before a start of communication of a protocol signal relating to image communication; and

a control circuit adapted to conduct communication based on [a] an image communication protocol corresponding to the ID information received by said receiver circuit, or to conduct communication to determine [a] an image communication protocol to be used, according to whether or not the ID information is received by said receiver circuit[, when communication is to be conducted in response to a calling signal].

13. (Four Times Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 11, further comprising a memory for storing, in association with each of a plurality of registered ID information respectively identifying one of a plurality of communication apparatuses at the calling station, a communication protocol that the respective communication apparatuses at the calling station can utilize, wherein said [selection] control circuit selects [the] at least one communication protocol based on the ID information received by said receiver circuit and the registered ID information stored in said memory.

18. (Five Times Amended) A control method of controlling a communication apparatus adapted to execute a plurality of types of communication protocols for image communication, said method comprising:

a reception step of a receiver circuit receiving ID information for identifying a communication apparatus at a calling station before a start of communication of a protocol signal relating to the image communication; and

a control step of conducting communication based on [a] an image

communication protocol corresponding to the ID information received in said reception step, or conducting communication to determine a communication protocol to be used, according to whether or not the ID information is received [by] in said [receiver circuit, when communication is to be conducted in response to a calling signal] reception step.

Claims 19-24 have been canceled.

NY_MAIN 243290 v 1